

EXHIBIT 35  
DATE 1/12/2011  
HB 198

January 12, 2011

Representative James Knox  
Montana House of Representatives  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Representative Knox:

As one of the committee members who will be hearing proposed Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications bills, specifically, HB 198, I want you to know that I live in Broadwater County, and I oppose House Bill 198 sponsored by Ken Peterson from Billings, Montana. Please prove to your constituents that you uphold private property rights. This bill violates the constitution!

Montana law provides that eminent domain is the right of the state to take private property for public use, BUT this bill gives power to NorthWestern Energy, TransCanada, and multi-national corporations and does NOT protect the property owners and the people of Montana. Eminent domain, used properly, is needed (e.g., state-built roads for public use). Transmission lines built by public utilities may also benefit the public; however, the Montana Alberta Tie Ltd (MATL), a line between Lethbridge, Alberta and Great Falls, Montana (connecting eventually to Townsend to hook up with the Mountain States Transmission Intertie [MSTI]), will not provide even one kilowatt of electricity to Montana homes.

No industry, especially a foreign entity, should be allowed to condemn and steal American soil. Landowners' interests need to be the top priority. Montana landowners should not be forced to sacrifice their private property so MATL, MSTI, and other merchant lines can profit from out-of-state energy sales. If MATL or MSTI can find willing land sellers, then so be it; however, the Montana Legislature should NOT give these corporations a sickle and scythe to begin negotiations.

I only own 1.33 acres of land in Montana. This issue is not about me. It is about my neighbors. However, I am a business owner in Townsend, and the only reason I am not in Helena today is because I need to keep my business open. Please protect Montana. If this bill passes, private property rights will be raped. Please VOTE NO on House Bill 198, and withdraw your co-sponsorship!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kelch Mitchell  
Big Sky Illuminations



P.O. Box 739, Townsend, Montana 59644 (406-266-4304)